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1 November 1974

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MEMORANDUM TO: [REDACTED]

SUBJECT : Consumer Survey of CIA Economic Publications

REFERENCE : Post-Audit of Finished Intelligence Memo of
7 October 1974

1. International Oil Developments. This weekly began publication in October 1973. During the first six months of its existence - during the period of the embargo and for a few weeks after the momentous price increase announcement - the IOD was read by several Cabinet level officers. Briefings on the international energy situation and associated monetary and financial developments provided at this level by departmental briefers and the OER briefer located at Treasury rely on the IOD extensively. All sub-Cabinet level officers involved with energy and security affairs read it with care. Two of the key actors at this level - Assistant Secretary Enders (EB/State) and Assistant Secretary Cooper (IA/Treasury) are in regular contact with the IOD managers with comments and requests for analysis.

The IOD has probably done more than any other single publication to enhance the reputation of CIA economic analysis.

2. Aperiodic Energy Publications. These memoranda and reports were all well received by the senior levels of the policy making community. Assistant Secretary Enders has relied heavily on OER for data and analysis of the Integrated Emergency Program. Much of this work was transmitted in typescript.

3. The EIW. This weekly is not as well received as the D/OER would wish. It has stiff competition from other classified publications at Treasury and State and a regular flood of other papers in these and other elements. It is read by a number of sub-Cabinet level persons, nonetheless.

The country forecast annexes - a new feature this year - were praised as were the data sheets at the end and the new summary format. The only substantive criticism came from senior OASIA persons concerning the treatment of monetary matters. One has the feeling that these comments are largely parochial.

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Members of the CEA rely extensively on OER for their views of foreign economic conditions. They express the view that OER is reliable. At both CEA and CIEP requests that the EIW include more interpretive analysis related to US policy issues were made at senior staff levels.

It was noted at CIEP that the inclusion of notices of new research reports and memoranda together with a one paragraph precis was good. It was suggested in this context that it might be a good idea to run a list of recent publications occasionally - perhaps once a month a list of the most recent three months output.

4. Other Aperiodic Publications. Except in rare instances these materials are not read by senior policymakers. They are used extensively as background by policymakers staffs, however. No particular criticisms were noted; these reports are generally regarded as solid. There was a general tendency to equate good reports with timeliness, but there were no particular criticisms in this regard.

5. Stray Comment. Secretary Shultz was a regular reader of the CIWR. He was told by Dr. Kissinger that it is the only IC publication that he read regularly.

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